



Australian Bureau of Statistics

1003.0 - ABS News for Libraries, Nov 2007

Previous ISSUE Released at 11:30 AM (CANBERRA TIME) 12/12/2007

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In this Issue



IN THIS ISSUE

Welcome to the final issue of ABS News for Libraries for 2007. We have enjoyed a busy year of getting out and about and spreading the word about Census data. The community response has been overwhelmingly positive, and we look forward to seeing how librarians and information professionals in all sectors assist their client to access and use ABS data.

To help our readers with their statistical queries, this issue features a number of guides to finding ABS (and other) data on a range of topics. The 'Shortcut' this issue is on **finding historical data**, and the 'Census' article features **cross-classified occupation data**. Check out the 'Education Libraries' for a Health Hotspot feature on **Obesity** - one of the most popular search terms used on the ABS website.

The November issue also includes information on services such as **Information Consultancy**, navigating the licensing agreements around **re-publishing ABS data** on your own website, and a fun feature article called **Summer Stats** - get the facts behind some of Australia's favourite summer activities.

Wishing you all a restful and festive break, and looking forward to returning in the new year.

Make Community Statistics available on your Library Website with Free Licensing (Feature Article)



FEATURE ARTICLE

Make Community Statistics available on your Library Website with Free Licensing

Help your clients discover their community by making ABS data available on your website.

The ABS encourages the use of its data within libraries and the community. Our current policy encourages this by allowing ABS data to be distributed on a non-charging public-access website without payment of licence fees. You may place data you have obtained free of charge from the ABS website, or data you have purchased from the ABS, on your website upon entering into a simple licensing arrangement with the ABS.

To date, over 100 Local Government organisations have taken advantage of this free licence, and have ABS data available on their websites for their local community to access. We can provide you with advice on the data that would best suit your needs and also ensure that you understand how to best use our data.

Some of the advantages of having ABS data on your website:

- people interested in your local area can access a wide range of information from one central place;
- data are available to support local planning;
- the data can be tailored for your local area;
- information can be presented in a format that best suits your needs;
- it is a useful tool for local business; and
- a resource for students.

For further information please contact Colleen Tharme on telephone 02 6252 6998 or by email at <intermediary.management@abs.gov.au>

Summer Stats

Summer is a time for people across Australia to spend time outdoors and engage in activities such as gardening, going to the beach, or visiting a national park. Here are some facts on summer and assorted topics related to the season.

Sports

In 2005-06...

- **730 700** Australians attended an outdoor cricket match

- **267 900** Australians attended a tennis match
- **1 million** Australians went cycling
- **4 million** Australians walked for exercise

On Holiday

- **73.6 million** overnight trips were taken by Australians in year ended 30 June 2007
- There were **43 266** Campervans in Australia as at 31 March 2007
- **3.5 million** Australians visited a winery during the period April to September 2006
- Tour buses travelled **126 million km** in Australia in year ended 31 October 2006

Food & Drink

In 2005-06...

- **37 979 508 kg** Mangoes were produced
- **1 767.2 ltr** of beer available for consumption
- The apparent per person consumption of wine was **3.11 ltr**
- **3 171 000 ltr** of sparkling wine was sold in December 2006

Keeping Cool

- **11.7%** of Australian households had a swimming pool in March 2007
- **60%** of households had some form of cooler (air conditioner or evaporative cooler) in 2005
- **92%** of Motor vehicles had air conditioning in March 2006

Source List

Sports Attendance, Australia, 2005-06 (cat. no. 4174.0)

Participation in Sports and Physical Recreation, Australia, 2005-06 (cat. no. 4177.0)

Travel by Australians, June 2007 (National Visitor Survey) Tourism Research Australia

Food and Wine Tourism in Australia, 2006 Snapshot Tourism Research Australia

Motor Vehicle Census, Australia, 31 March 2007 (cat. no. 9309.0)

Survey of Motor Vehicle Use, Australia, 12 months ended 31 October 2006 (cat. no. 9208.0)

Environmental Issues: People's Views and Practices, March 2005 & 2007 (cat. no. 4602.0)

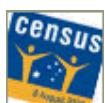
Environmental Issues: People's Views and Practices, March 2006 (cat. no. 4602.0)

Principal Agricultural Commodities, Australia, Preliminary, 2005-06 (cat. no. 7111.0)

Apparent Consumption of Alcohol, Australia, 2004-05 (cat. no. 4307.0.55.001)

Sales of Australian Wine and Brandy by Winemakers, Oct 2007 (cat. no. 8504.0)

Census



CENSUS

A Look at Occupation Data

Data relating to employment, industry and occupation from the 2006 Census has been progressively released to the ABS website since 25 October 2007.

Understanding how this data is organised will help you navigate the available options and find the information you need.

About Occupation Data

On Census Night 2006 Australians were asked to list their main job held in the last week:

<p>38 In the main job held last week, what was the person's occupation?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Give full title.• For example: CHILDCARE AIDE, MATHS TEACHER, PASTRY COOK, TANNING MACHINE OPERATOR, APPRENTICE TOOLMAKER, SHEEP AND WHEAT FARMER.• For public servants, provide official designation and occupation.• For armed services personnel, provide rank and occupation.	<p>Occupation</p> 
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Fig 1: Screenshot - Census 2006 question 38

and the main tasks usually performed:

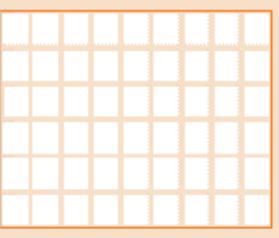
<p>39 What are the main tasks that the person usually performs in the occupation reported at Question 38?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Give full details.• For example: LOOKING AFTER CHILDREN AT A DAY CARE CENTRE, TEACHING SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS, MAKING CAKES AND PASTRIES, OPERATING LEATHER TANNING MACHINE, LEARNING TO MAKE AND REPAIR TOOLS AND DIES, RUNNING A SHEEP AND WHEAT FARM.• For managers, provide main activities managed.	<p>Tasks or duties</p> 
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Fig 2: Screenshot - Census 2006 question 39

When this information is processed, people's responses are assigned to a standard list of occupations. This list is the Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations (ANZSCO). Using the Classification means responses are grouped according to a standard form - for example one person may list their occupation as 'hair stylist' and another as 'hairdresser', but they are both put into the ANZSCO category of 'Hairdressers'.

How data is grouped

ANZSCO enables occupations to be grouped in a hierarchy: for example,

Major group	2 Professionals
Sub-major group	22 Business, Human Resource and Marketing Professionals
Minor group	224 Information and Organisation Professionals
Unit group	2242 Archivists, Curators and Records Managers
	2246 Librarians
Occupation	224211 Archivist
	224212 Gallery or Museum Curator

The occupation classifications use 6 digit codes. '1 digit level' coding is the broadest categorisation, '4 digit level' provides more detailed classification, with '6 digit level' being the most detailed. This allows data to be released at different levels depending upon requirements.

Where to find the full list of occupation categories

The classification list of all the different categories for Occupation can be found to the 4 digit level in the Census Dictionary or the full classification to 6 digit level in ANZSCO (cat. no. 1220.0).

Finding data online

Often occupation data is available cross-classified with different variables or topics only at the major group level (ie Managers, Professionals, Technicians and Trade Workers, Community and Personal Service Workers etc).

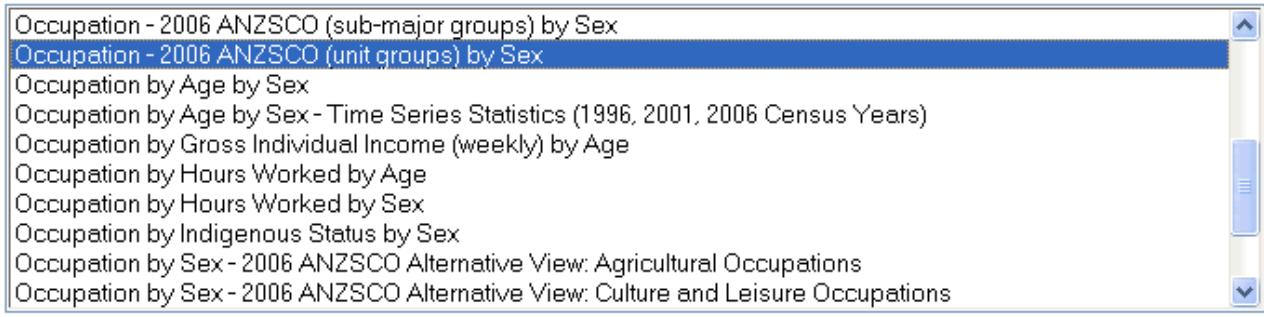
For example, you can access data online about the Number of Hours worked by Professionals or Sales Workers groups, but not by Librarians.

If you required more a detailed level of occupation data, for example numbers of Library Assistants, then you would need to select the option for Occupation unit groups from the Topic List in the Census Tables product.

- Select a topic.
[What is a topic?](#)

Occupation 

- Select data and then click 'Select Location'.



Select Location >

Fig 3: Screenshot - cross-classified occupation data

The most detailed data available

Standard occupation data is generally released to a 4 digit level. However with the 2006 Census, occupation data is also available online at a 6 digit level via the 'Alternative View' options under the Occupation Topic in Census Tables. These are grouped into five occupation subsets: Agriculture, Culture and Leisure, Health, Hospitality and Tourism, and ICT.

For example: Where a 2006 ANZSCO (unit groups) table would provide data for the category '4522 Outdoor Adventure Guides', the Culture and Leisure Occupations table will provide data for:

452211 Bungy Jump Master
452212 Fishing Guide
452214 Mountain or Glacier Guide
452217 Whitewater Rafting Guide

Library Technicians are identified at the 6 digit level, while at the 4 digit level they are grouped into the category '3933 Gallery, Library and Museum Technicians'. You can access this level of occupation data for areas as small as Suburbs, Statistical Local Areas, or Local Government Areas.

Comparing 2001 and 2006 data

It is important to note that since the last Census the Classification has changed. 2001 Census data was released categorised according to the 1993 ASCO (Australian Standard Classification of Occupations) 2nd edition. 2006 Census data has been released categorised according to the new 2006 ANZSCO. This means there are differences in how the data is grouped and named, which has an impact upon comparing data and measuring change over time. To assist users the ABS has made 2006 Census data also available categorised according to 1993 ASCO.

What does 'nfd' or 'nec' mean?

You will sometimes see categories with the terms 'nfd' or 'nec' at the end: for example 'Outdoor Adventure Guides nec' or 'Information and Organisation Professionals, nfd'.

Nec means 'not elsewhere classified'. It allows responses from a Census form which don't fit into a suitable category in the classification to still be included.

Nfd means 'not further defined'. This is used when a respondent has not provided adequate information for the response to be put into a category at the most detailed level. The response may have been incomplete, non-specific, or imprecise. The response is coded to the next highest level which is sufficiently broad to include all possibilities implied by the available information. Where this occurs, special nfd categories are used at the more detailed levels of the classification.

Census Occupation data compared with Labour Force Survey data

A feature article Census and the Labour Force Survey in the October 2007 issue of Australian Labour Market Statistics (ABS cat. no. 6105.0) compares 2006 Census and Labour Force Survey data. (also see Census Dictionary - Occupation)

The Labour Force Survey provides up-to-date data on a monthly basis. However Census data can provide information for small population groups and small geographic areas. The Census also allows analysis of industry and occupation data at a much greater level of detail than the Labour Force Survey. It will depend on your information need as to which is the best source to use.

Shortcuts



SHORTCUTS

Shortcut: Finding Historical Statistics

Currently all ABS publications from **1994 onwards** are available full-text on the ABS website. This guide will help you find data from earlier publications:

Is there any historical data online?

Some historical demographic data is available online in Australian Historical Population Statistics (cat. no. 3105.0.65.001)

- this publication includes data from 1788 onwards, covering population size & growth, distribution, age-sex structure, births, deaths, migration and divorces.

Limited historical agricultural data is available online in:

Historical Selected Agricultural Commodities, by State (1861 to present), 2005 (cat. no. 7124.0)

What data is not yet online?

Other historical data is available in print publications. The entire collection of ABS publications from 1901 to 1993 is also available on microfiche.

- These can be accessed from ABS collections in each State Library or the National Library of Australia, and many University Libraries also hold ABS publications in print or microfiche.
- You can request copies or loans of items you require by an Interlibrary loan or document delivery request (check Libraries Australia to see which libraries have holdings). The ABS Library also has a deposit collection of all ABS publications.

How do I know which publication has the data I need?

There is a Historical Publication Index on the ABS website.

This is the online version of the Index to the Historical Microfiche series 1901 - 1993 (cat. no. 1123.0)

- These indexes list the national output of the ABS, and its predecessor the Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics, from 1907 to 1993.
- You can **search by topic** to locate individual publications, and track title changes, dates published, frequency, and catalogue numbers.

How do I find Colonial Statistics?

Before Federation in 1901, official statistics were collected by the six individual colonial statistical bureaus and their precursors.

- A useful overview of colonial statistics can be found in the feature article Australian Statisticians and the Development of Official Statistics in Year Book Australia, 1988 (cat. no. 1301.0)
- Colonial statistics include early censuses, Blue Books, State Statistical Registers and other items.
- These are held in print in a variety of library collections including the National Library of Australia, State Libraries and the ABS.
- In 1989 a microfiche of colonial statistics was produced, incorporating over 250,000 pages of information stored on more than 3,000 microfiche.
- It was accompanied by a brief index: the Catalogue of Australian Statistical Publications 1804 to 1901 (cat. no. 1115.0).
- The Catalogue provides a title and subject index to colonial statistics, so can be used to identify publications you may wish to request to access from a library; or as a guide for accessing the microfiche.

How do I find Historical Census Data?

Data from the 2006, 2001 and 1996 Censuses are available from the Census Homepage.

Census data 1911-1991

- The first census conducted by the Commonwealth of Australia was in 1911.
- Subsequent censuses were conducted in 1921, 1933, 1947, 1954 and 1961.
- From 1961 a census has been conducted every five years.
- Data from these censuses are available in a range of print publications - the Historical Publications Index, or Index to the Historical Microfiche series 1901 - 1993 lists these publications. Accessible in print or the Historical Microfiche series.
- The Australian Social Science Data Archive (ASSDA) has a current digitisation project underway to make historical census data freely available online. Some historical Census data (1966-1991) is currently available to ASSDA member organisations online.
- Some additional detailed Census data is available from the ABS, for example small area data, & cross-classified data not found in print output publications. This data can be requested on a fee-for-service basis from ABS Information Consultancy Services.

Colonial Census Statistics

- Colonies conducted their own censuses from 1828 to 1886
- The first simultaneous census of Australia was conducted in 1881 as part of the Census of the British Empire.
- Much colonial census data is included in the Blue Books and various Statistical Registers of the colonies.
- Colonial census publications are also included in the Colonial microfiche collection.
- The microfiche collection includes the 1901 Census, which was the first and only Census to be carried out individually by each of the newly federated States.
- Some colonial census data will be made available online from the Australian Social Science Data Archive (ASSDA) website in 2008 <http://assda.anu.edu.au/>
- For data from early colonial musters, see the resources listed in the National Library of Australia guide Australian Censuses, Musters and Population Counts.
- Summary demographic data is available online in Australian Historical Population Statistics (cat. no. 3105.0.65.001).

Coming soon

Year Book Australia editions will be available full-text online back to the first 1901-1907 edition. These previous issues will be released to the website on 26 January, 2008 (Australia Day).

Historical Census data from the Colonial period will soon be freely available online from the Australian Social Science Data Archive (ASSDA) website, from early 2008.

Need further assistance?

Contact the ABS National Helpline.

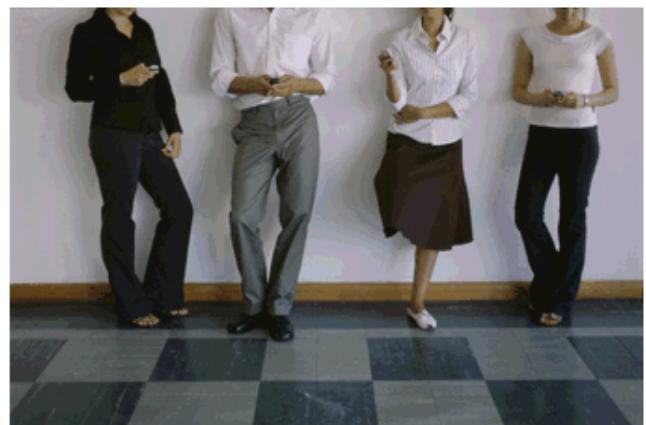
Special Libraries



SPECIAL LIBRARIES

Making the most of ABS Information Consultancy Services

In addition to the wealth of free statistics available on the Australian Bureau of Statistics' website, the ABS offers an Information Consultancy Service, where experienced consultants can provide more detailed data, or tables customised to meet individual needs.



Who makes use of Information Consultancies?

- Local governments request Census and demographic data for planning; for example, housing development, child care facilities etc...
- Parliamentarians and ministers request Census data about their constituents' characteristics
- Government policy staff request data from a range of sources on current issues of concern; for example, income, education, housing, health, etc...
- Government agencies request demographic data for benchmarking and evaluating programs
- Academics and students request a variety of data for research purposes such as data modelling
- People wanting to start a business request data to identify the best location and markets for their business
- Business owners request International Trade data to identify market trends and their own market share
- Organisations involved in tourism request Overseas Arrivals and Departures data to better understand the industry
- Intermediaries may purchase data to use in their own products and services.

Find out more about the ABS Information Consultancy service in the recently released brochure, Information Consultancy Services, 2007 (cat. no. 9920.0). Including Frequently Asked Questions by first time users of the Information Consultancy Service, the brochure outlines the wide range of data available from both the ABS website and the cost-recovered consultancy service.

More information about how ABS data can help people can be found in the Planning for Business (cat. no. 1391.0.55.001) brochure. This brochure presents a range of case studies demonstrating how ABS data, available either from the ABS website or obtained via consultancy, can be used to

assist in decision-making.

To find out more, contact us via the telephone enquiry service on 1300 135 070, or email client.services@abs.gov.au.

Public Libraries



PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Publications Round-up

Recently released publications to note:

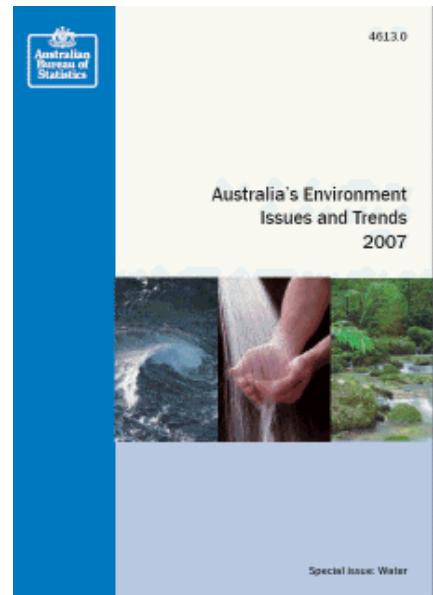
Australia's Environment: Issues and Trends, 2007 (cat. no. 4613.0) released 10 December 2007

This publication is made up of two main parts, a feature article (the issue) and trends. The feature article for this year is water. The second part, the trends section, is broken into five areas that cover major environmental indicators of interest to Australians.

These are:

- Population and urban trends,
- Human activity trends,
- Atmosphere trends,
- Water trends, and
- Landscape trends

By drawing on a wide range of ABS statistics and statistics from other official sources this publication provides an excellent overview of environmental data. Includes information on greenhouse gases, climate change, and recycling.



Business Use of Information Technology, 2005-06 (cat. no. 8129.0) released 7 December 2007
Summary data from the annual Business Characteristics Survey relating to business use of information technology. Covers topics such as business computer and internet use; broadband connections; web presence; and purchasing and selling via the internet.

Environmental Issues: People's Views and Practices, Mar 2007 (cat. no. 4602.0) released 6 December 2007

This edition focuses on 'Water use and conservation'. It presents data on sources of water in households, the use of water and water saving measures used in the house and in the garden. Data on use of rainwater tanks and grey water are also included. Comparisons with results from similar past surveys since 1994 are included.

Patterns of internet access in Australia, 2006 (cat. no. 8146.0.55.001) released 29 November 2007
Presents analysis of data from the 2006 Census of Population and Housing. Includes access rates for both any internet access, and broadband. Looks at regional differences in access; and socio-economic characteristics such as age, employment, indigenous, disability status.

Adult Literacy and Life Skills Survey, Summary Results, Australia, 2006 (cat. no. 4228.0) released 28 November 2007

Provides data to help answer questions of whether Australians' literacy skills are adequate for the challenges they face in work and daily life. This survey provides information on the knowledge and skills of 15 to 74 year olds in five areas. These include prose literacy (ability to read newspapers,

magazines), document literacy (ability to understand timetables, job applications, maps), numeracy, problem solving, and health literacy.

Migrant Data Matrices, 2007 (cat. no. 3415.0) released 22 November 2007

Provides quick and easy access to summary data on migrants from a range of ABS collections. Grouped by topic, users can see what data items are available, and then link directly to the data tables.

Planning for Business, 2007 (cat.no. 1391.0.55.001) released 26 October 2007

A brochure about using statistics for small business and franchise planning. Includes case studies focussing on knowing your market, locating potential clients, targetting promotions, assessing site locations, supporting your business case, or improving your marketing strategy.

Education Libraries



EDUCATION LIBRARIES

Australian School Library Association Biennial Conference, Adelaide, 2 - 5th October 2007

The Australian Bureau of Statistics ran a trade stand at the Biennial Australian School Library Association Conference in Adelaide in October 2007. The conference was attended by nearly 500 Teacher Librarians from government and private schools across Australia, with some delegates attending from overseas. Over 250 delegates attended the ABS stand, and they were very keen to see the new 2006 Census Products on the ABS Website. The ABS was also promoting the Census@Schools 2008 project, and over 25 schools registered to be contacted by ABS to find out more about this school based project to develop statistical literacy skills in primary and secondary students.

The ABS Stand had some great give-aways, including 2006 Census Pens, Ruler/Calculators, Tape Measures and Carry Bags which were keenly sought after by delegates. There were none left on the last day of the conference!

Pam Balfour, ISP Manager, SA, Kate Hoffmann, Census Liaison, SA and Heather Burns, ISP Manager, Victoria ran the ABS Stand, and enjoyed talking to many teacher-librarians about how they thought their schools could use ABS data in their curriculum.

ABS visits Batchelor Institute for Indigenous Tertiary Education in NT

In September Pia Loffley from the NT Office of the ABS delivered a session on navigating the ABS website and accessing 2006 Census data to Library & academic staff at the Batchelor Institute for Indigenous Tertiary Education. The Batchelor Institute Library featured the ABS website and information in its September Newsletter.



Fig 2: From left - Kylie Johnstone (ABS, NCATSS), centre, Batchelor Institute Staff - Dr Sharon Chirgwin (Academic & Research Division), Graeme Cheater (Librarian), Lynne Shirley (Library Technician), right - Pia Loffley (ABS, Info Consultant & ISP Coordinator)

Health Hot Spot: Obesity

One of the most popular searches on the ABS website is for information relating to obesity, including childhood obesity. This quick guide outlines where to find Australian obesity data.

7.4 million people aged 18 years and over (54% of the adult population) were classified as overweight or obese in 2005.

This is an increase from 5.4 million adults (45%) of the adult population in 1995.

In November 2007 the OECD ranked Australia as having the fifth highest adult obesity rate across its 30 member countries.

Where will I find obesity data?

The key ABS data source is:

National Health Survey: Summary of Results, 2004-05 (cat. no. 4364.0) see pp. 11-12, Tables 25 - 28.

In this survey overweight and obesity are assessed using body mass index (BMI), calculated from self-reported height and weight information.

For an overview of obesity data:

Article: Overweight and Obesity in Australian Social Trends, 2007 (cat. no. 4102.0).

Changes in Health: a Snapshot, 2004-05 (cat. no. 4834.0.55.001) - health risk factors section contains summary data on overweight/obesity.

Additional data can be found in: Australia's Health, 2006 published by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW).

- see section on Body Weight pp.182-187; children and obesity p.186; also includes section on dietary behaviour.

Older data is available in these publications:

How Australians Measure Up, 1995 (cat. no. 4359.0) data from the 1995 National Health Survey.

Health Risk Factors, Australia, 2001 (cat. no. 4812.) data from the 2001 National Health Survey.

National Nutrition Survey: Nutrient Intakes and Physical Measurements, Australia, 1995 (cat. no. 4805.0).

Related data:

Physical Activity in Australia: a Snapshot, 2004-05 (cat. no. 4835.0.55.001) - overview of data from NHS.

Participation in Sports and Physical Recreation, Australia, 2005-06 (cat. no. 4177.0).

Exercise data in National Health Survey: Summary of Results, 2004-05 (cat. no. 4364.0) pp. 10-11,

Tables 23 & 24.

Dietary behaviours data in National Health Survey: Summary of Results, 2004-05 (cat. no. 4364.0) pp.12, Table 29.

Childhood obesity

There is currently not a great deal of data available relating to childhood obesity.

There is some data for ages 15-17 years included in Changes in Health: a Snapshot, 2004-05 (cat. no. 4834.0.55.001).

Summary data from the NSW Schools Physical Activity and Nutrition Survey (SPANS) 2004 is included in the articles Health of Children: a Snapshot, 2004-05 (cat. no. 4829.0.55.001) & Overweight and Obesity in Australian Social Trends, 2007 (cat. no. 4102.0).

Older data is available in:

National Nutrition Survey, 2005 (cat. no. 4805.0) Tables 92-93 contains data on children's body measurements, as does: Children, Australia: A Social Report, 1999 (cat. no. 4119.0) Table 5.29. Further analysis of National Nutrition Survey data can be found in: Profile of the nutritional status of children and adolescents (AIHW, 2007).

A new (non-ABS) survey of children's nutrition, activity patterns (including height/weight/waist measurements) is currently underway with the Kids Eat, Kids Play survey.

Related data

Children's Participation in Culture and Leisure Activities, 2006 (cat. no. 4901.0) - includes data such as time spent playing sport and watching television.

Obesity and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders

The key publication for data regarding indigenous Australians and obesity is:

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey, 2004-05 (cat. no. 4715.0) - see section on body mass pp. 12-13, Table 21; dietary behaviour Tables 22 & 23.

Further analysis of this data can be found in: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health performance framework, 2006 (AIHW): chapter

2.24 Prevalence of overweight and obesity among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults and children (AIHW, PDF 117Kb).

Other data sources

Department of Health and Ageing Healthy Weight: evidence base on overweight and obesity - lists data resource links

International comparisons: Health at a Glance 2007 - OECD Indicators (AIHW)

World Health Organisation: Global Database on Body Mass Index

About this Release

The ABS News for Libraries Newsletter is produced by the Information Skills Program and distributed to libraries in the public, education and government sectors. This newsletter keeps them up to date on the news and items of interest to the library community, including website developments, training and publications of relevance, and to promote ABS products and services.